

Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

(1) *Medical Officer of Health (part time)* :
A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

(2) *Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (full time)* :
GEORGE E. MARLOW, M.Inst.Mun.E., Cert. R.S.I.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1949.

According to the Registrar General's estimate there is a slight increase in population from 6,352 in 1948 to 6,382.

The birth rate (16.4) is higher than 1948 (15.5), and slightly less than that for England and Wales 16.7.

The death rate is higher than 1948, 13.6 compared with 9.6, and higher than that for England and Wales 11.7.

The chief causes of death are the same as in 1948, from diseases associated with elderly people, but the numbers in this group have increased from 40 in 1948 to 56 in 1949.

Considerable progress has been made with the sewerage of the village of Blackfordby, and it is anticipated that the work will be completed in the near future. The enlargement of the Willesley sewage works is proceeding and will be completed in the next 6 months. A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for the sewerage of New Packington, and the enlargement of the existing sewage disposal works at Packington.

The total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year was 235. 28 houses were completed during the year, 22 by the local authority and 6 by private enterprise, making a total of 122 houses completed in the post-war period.

74 Cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, 31 Measles as compared with 164 in 1948, 14 Pneumonia with 3 deaths, 14 Whooping Cough, 5 Scarlet Fever, all mild and none of them removed to hospital, and one case of Infantile Paralysis (Acute Poliomyelitis). I regret to report that the one case of Infantile Paralysis in an adult died.

There was no Diphtheria notified during the year.

The number of children being immunised against Diphtheria tends to be falling, in 1949, 50 receiving primary immunisation, and of this number 39 were in the under 1 year of age and under 2 years of age groups. 13 Children received a reinforcing dose (Booster dose). Unless this trend can be reversed there may be dangerously high percentage of the child population unimmunised against diphtheria.

6 Cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 5 Pulmonary and one non-Pulmonary. The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register has risen from 13 at the end of 1947, to 15 at the end of 1948, to 19 at the end of 1949. This is not a serious rise, but Tuberculosis is a disease associated with overcrowding, and should act as a stimulus to increase the rate of new housing.

I should like to express my thanks to the Public Health Department of the County Council for their help and co-operation.

Finally, it remains for me to express my appreciation to Mr. G. E. Marlow, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable help during the year, and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kindness and co-operation.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	..	..	..	..	..	6,190 acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	..					6,382

Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	1,928
Rateable Value	..	..	£38,034
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	£148
Comparability factor	..	..	1.00

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the District are :—Agriculture, Coalmining (open cast), Biscuit making, Soap Manufacturing and Glove Manufacturing. A number of workers engaged in Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking are resident in the town. There is a camp for Displaced Persons, and a Hostel run by the Leicestershire Agricultural Executive Committee for members of the Women's Land Army. There are also two Public Parks and an Open-Air Swimming Bath in the town. No industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS :		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	.. .. .. ..	97	43	54
Illegitimate	.. .. .. ..	8	4	4
		—	—	—
Total	.. .. .. ..	105	47	58
		—	—	—

Live Birth Rate—16.4 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Birth Rate—16.7 per 1,000 population.

STILL BIRTHS :		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	.. .. .. ..	1	0	1
Illegitimate	.. .. .. ..	0	0	0
		—	—	—
Total	.. .. .. ..	1	0	1
		—	—	—

Still Birth Rate.—.15 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Still Birth Rate.—.39 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS :		Total	Male	Female
		87	42	45

Death Rate.—13.6 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Death Rate.—11.7 per 1,000 population.

Causes of Death in 1949

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	..	..	0	1	1
Acute Polio-myelitis and					
Polio-Encephalitis	..	..	0	1	1
Cancer of Buc. Cav. Oesoph. M. Uterus F			2	1	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum			..	3	3
Cancer of Breast	..	..	..	0	2
Cancer of all other sites	..	..	..	4	3
Diabetes	..	..	..	0	1
Intracranial vascular lesions			..	5	9
Heart diseases	..	..	..	16	11
Other diseases of Circulatory system			..	0	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	4	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases			..	1	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum			..	1	0
Other Digestive Disease	..	..	..	2	0
Congenital Mal., Birth Injury, Infant disease			1	1	2
Suicide	..	..	..	0	1
Road traffic accident			..	1	0
Other violent causes	..	..	..	2	2
All other causes	..	..	..	1	6
			—	—	—
			42	45	87
			—	—	—

Death Rate from Total Maternal Causes per 1,000 Live and Still Births—0. (England and Wales .98).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

			<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	3	2
Illegitimate	0	0
			—	—	—
Total	3	2
			—	—	—

Death Rate under 1 year of age—28.5 per 1,000 Live Births.
(England and Wales)—32.0 per 1,000 Live Births.

Death Rate from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age—0 per 1,000 Live Births. (England and Wales 3.0 per 1,000 Live Births).

Chief Causes of Death in 1949 :—

Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	27
Cancer (all forms)	..	..	..	..	15
Intracranial Vas. Lesions	..	..	..	..	14

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

HOSPITALS

All hospitals are under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of a few private Maternity and Nursing Homes. The County Homes for aged and infirm people are under the County Council. When they become ill they are the responsibility of the Hospital Board.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Thursday afternoon at the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby. An Ante-natal Clinic and Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville. The Tuberculosis Clinic is under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

These are mostly provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade as agents of the County Council at Coalville and Church Gresley, and partly from the County Ambulance Depot, Leicester. Colliery accidents are removed by ambulance provided by the National Coal Board stationed at Nailstone Colliery and at Moira.

NURSING IN THE HOME

All District Nursing and Midwifery in the Home is under the County Council.

HEALTH VISITING

This work is provided as before by the County Council, and is very ably carried out in the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

County Council Laboratory, 8 St. Martin's, Leicester

The examinations performed on behalf of the District in the County Laboratory are as follows :—

Milk Examinations	52
Water Examinations	2
	—
Total	54
	—

The Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester

The following examinations were made :—

Throat and nose swabs	1
Sputa	1
	—
Total	2
	—

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The whole District is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Board from the Milton Water Works.

There are still a few wells in use.

Number of Wells closed—6.

Number of Wells cleansed—Nil.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for Well Water—9.

Number of parishes with piped water supply :—

(a) From Public Mains—Whole area.

(b) From Private Reservoirs—Nil.

Number of houses without a piped water supply—35.

The quality of the existing supplies is satisfactory. The water exhibits no plumbo-Solvent properties. It has been necessary to continue night time restrictions during the year owing to a shortage of water at the source of supply. Steps are being taken to obtain an additional supply of water from Leicester Corporation, Derwent Valley Water Main.

No extensions of the Public Water supply were carried out in 1949.

Drainage and Sewerage

Number of cesspools constructed during the year—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—31.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st December, 1949—
100.

Particulars of any extension during the year :—

- (a) Sewerage.—Considerable progress has been made with the sewerage of the village of Blackfordby and it is anticipated that the work will be completed in the near future.
- (b) Sewage Disposal.—With the exception of New Packington the whole of the Urban Area is provided with sewage Disposal Works.
- (c) New Schemes.—The enlargement of Willesley Sewage Works is proceeding and will be completed during the next six months.

Post-War Proposals

A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for the sewerage of New Packington and the enlargement of the existing Sewage Disposal Works at Packington.

Closet Accommodation

Total number in District on 31st December, 1949 :—

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	41
(b)	Pail closets	..	..	..	..	39
(c)	Water closets	..	..	..	..	1,277

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year :—

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	20
(b)	Pail closets	..	..	..	..	15

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year : Nil.

Public Cleansing

House refuse is collected weekly by Council workmen with a covered motor vehicle, and conveyed to a tip where it is deposited in shallow layers and covered with earth.

Earth closets, privies and ash pits are cleansed by Council workmen, the contents being disposed of on arable land and ploughed in.

At Blackfordby, the removal of house refuse and the cleansing of earth closets and privies is carried out by a Contractor and dealt with in a manner similar to the rest of the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Total number of complaints received during 1948 ..	105
Total number of defects and nuisances discovered ..	218

Particulars of Inspections Made

Type of Inspection		Number of Inspections	Number of Revisits
Animal Keeping	23	5	
Bakehouses	8	2	
Dairies and Cowsheds	56	24	
Drainage Works	43	18	
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	142	52	
Food Premises	30	5	
Offensive Trades	1	-	
Rats and Mice Destruction	49	35	
Refuse Collection and Disposal	52	26	
Schools	2	0	
Shops	22	4	
Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection	0	0	
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	2	0	
Verminous Premises and Scabies	3	3	
Water Supplies	74	40	
Workshops, etc.	20	6	
Other Inspections	120	41	
 Totals	 647	 261	

Results of Notices Sent

Preliminary Notices

		Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January, 1949 ..	..	8	7
Issued during year .. .. ..	..	79	102
Complied with during year .. .. ..	..	77	100
Statutory action necessary .. .. ..	..	0	12
Outstanding 31st December, 1949 ..	..	10	9

Statutory Notices

		Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January, 1949	..	0	0
Issued during year	.. ..	0	12
Complied with during year	.. ..	0	10
Outstanding 31st December, 1949	..	0	2
Summary Action : Number of summonses issued		..	3
Number of convictions obtained		..	3

Shops

Particulars of action taken during year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

	Outstanding 1st Jan., 1949	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding 31st Dec., 1949
Sanitary				
Conveniences	0	2	2	0
Temperature	0	0	0	0
Ventilation	0	2	2	0
Cleansing	0	1	1	0

Camping Sites. Nil.

Regulated Buildings

Class of Building	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Action Taken	General Conditions
Common Lodging				
Houses	Nil.	0	0	0
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	1	1	0	satisfactory
Canal Boats	Nil.	0	0	0
Offensive Trades	1	1	0	satisfactory

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Particulars of action taken :—

Number of Council Houses infested	..	..	0
Number of other dwelling houses infested	..	..	3
Number of houses disinfested	..	..	3

The disinfestation was carried out by the Local Authority by praying with D.D.T. fluid and dusting with D.D.T. powder.

Rat and Mice Destruction

All properties found to be infested with rats were dealt with by the Councils Rodent Operator. The refuse tip and sewers and Sewage Disposal Works received attention during the year.

Schools

All the Schools are supplied with Water from the Public Main and all are on the Water Carriage System except Blackfordby Church of England School.

Schools Disinfected	0
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Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public

No. in Area :—

(a) Publicly owned	1
(b) Privately owned	Nil

SECTION D

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply

Cowkeepers—

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	38
Number of Inspections made	..	..	..	..	40
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	..	..	..	..	2
Number of contraventions found during year	..	..	..	..	9
Number of contraventions remedied during year	..	..	..	..	10
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st December, 1949	..	..	..	..	1

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than cowkeepers)—

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	12
Number of Inspections made	..	..	..	..	16
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	..	..	..	..	2
Number of contraventions found during year	..	..	..	..	7
Number of contraventions remedied during year	..	..	..	..	7
Number of contraventions on 31st December, 1949 ..	..	..	..	..	2

Total Contraventions

Type of	Outstanding from previous year	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on 31st Dec., 1949.
Cleansing	2	7	8	1
Structural				
Alterations	1	5	4	2
Utensils	0	1	1	0
Other	1	3	4	0

Milk Sampling

Class of Milk	Total samples taken for bact. exam'n.	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	0	0	0
Accredited	..	0	0
Pasteurised..	..	4	3
Ordinary ..	..	5	4

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-1946

Three licences were issued during the year, one for a Pasteurising Plant, one for Supplementary Retail Distribution of Pasteurised Milk and one for a Bottling Licence.

The pasteurising Plant for which the Licence was issued is a Cherry Burrell Superplate H.T.S.T., 500 gallons per hour, automatic temperature control.

Number of Plants for heating milk not licenced as Pasteurising Plants—Nil.

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered :—

Manufacture	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Retail	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

Number of Samples—5.

Results—

Grade 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Grade 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Grade 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Grade 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

Meat and Other Foods

No. of Regional Slaughter Houses in Area	..	..	Nil
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	..	..	Nil
No. of Knackers Yards in Area	..	..	Nil
No. of visits to Knackers Yards	..	..	Nil

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

Number inspected	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number condemned	Nil

Meat Stalls. Nil.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.

Number of Inspections	26
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Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale

Number of Inspections	35
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Action taken :—

The following is a list of food condemned and destroyed :—

Meat	82 lbs.
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	30 tins
Sausage	..	..	..	..	..	25 lbs.
Pies	..	..	..	..	..	16 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	28 lbs.
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	24 lbs.
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	35 tins
Jam	..	..	..	..	..	25 jars
Soup	..	..	..	..	..	45 tins
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	42 tins
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	46 tins
Tomatoes	..	..	..	..	..	16 lbs.
Tomatoes	..	..	..	..	..	29 tins
Pickles	..	..	..	..	..	25 jars
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	42 tins
Beans	..	..	..	..	..	14 tins
Peas	..	..	..	..	..	25 tins
Syrup	..	..	..	..	..	6 tins
Grapefruit	..	..	..	..	..	8 tins
Tomato Puree	..	..	..	..	..	12 tins
Dried Egg	..	..	..	..	..	10 tins
Cocoa	..	..	..	..	..	12 tins

SECTION E

Housing

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	161
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	194
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	x0
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	48

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers

39

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	12
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.. .. ..	0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.. .. .. ..	0
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	..	0

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding :

(a)	(1) Number of dwelling overcrowded at end of year	..	10
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	.. ..	14
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	.. ..	56
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	.. .. .. .. ..	2
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	..	12
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	..	75
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	.. .. .. .. ..	0

Post War Housing

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at end of year 235

Houses completed during the year

By Local Authority 22
By Private Enterprise 6

Houses in course of erection at end of year

By Local Authority (Permanent traditional type) .. 48
By Private Enterprise 8

Total number of Post-War Houses completed

By Local Authority 110
By Private Enterprise 12

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1949

Disease		Final numbers after correction	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	..	5	0	0
Measles	..	31	0	0
Pneumonia	..	14	0	3
Erysipelas	..	7	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	2	0	0
Polio-myelitis	..	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	..	14	0	0
Other Cases admitted to Hospital (diagnosis not confirmed)	..	0	2	0
		—	—	—
		74	3	4
		—	—	—

Analysis Under Age Groups according to Registrar Generals' Return 118d

Age Period	Scarlet	Whooping	Measles	Polio- myelitis
	Fever	Cough		
0-1	..	0	3	2
1-3	..	0	1	1
3-5	..	1	7	10
5-10	..	3	3	15
10-15	..	1	0	1
15-25	..	0	0	1
25 and over	0	0	1	1
	—	—	—	—
	5	14	31	1
	—	—	—	—
Age Period	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	
0-5	..	..	2	0
5-15	..	..	1	0
15-45	..	..	5	5
45-65	..	..	1	1
65 and over	..	..	4	1
Age unknown	..	..	1	0
	—	—	—	—
	14	7	—	2
	—	—	—	

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of Children who were immunised during the period
1st January—31st December, 1949

Age at 31/12/49 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Primary Immunisation	2	37	6	1	2	-	-	1
Booster Dose	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	-
Age at 31/12/49 i.e. born in year	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	Total
Primary Immunisation	—	-	-	-	-	-	1	50
Booster Dose	1	1	—	2	-	-	-	13

Estimated mid-Year Child Population, 1949 :

0-4 years (inclusive)	..	..	..	546
5-14 years (inclusive)	..	..	..	881

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Tuberculosis Register for the year 1949

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
No. of cases on the Register at the commencement of year ..	6	2	8	6	2	8	16
No. of cases notified during the year ..	2	3	5	0	1	1	6
No. of cases restored to the Register ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of cases added other than by formal notification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of cases removed from Register during the year ..	1	0	1	2	0	2	3
No. of cases remaining on the Register at end of year	7	5	12	4	3	7	19

Causes of Removal

	..	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Cured	..	0	0	2	0
Died	..	1	0	0	0
		—	—	—	—
		1	0	2	0
		—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Resumé of Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1949, previously sent to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Headquarters, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

Part I of the Act

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	(1)	M/c Line	No. on Register	No. of Inspec-		Written Occupier	
		No.	Register	tions	notices	prosecuted	(5)
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	(1)	1	46	25	6	Nil	(6)
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	1	46	25	6	Nil	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more Cases).

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found		
		Ref. to H.M.	Ref. by H.M.	Inspector
Want of Cleanliness ..	2	2	0	2
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	0	0

(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	3	3	0	0
	—	—	—	—
	6	6	0	2
	==	==	==	==

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of work</i>	<i>No. of Outworkers in August list</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council required by Sec. 110</i>	<i>No. of pros. for failure to supply lists</i>

Wearing apparel

Making, etc. ..	3	0	0

<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
0	0	0

